

**Testimony before the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee**

**Testimony of Brian A. Doyle**

**March 17, 2016**

Good afternoon Senator Duff, Representative Janowski, Senator Kane, Representative Buck-Taylor and members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee. My name is Brian A. Doyle, and it is an honor and privilege to be reappointed to the Education Arbitration Board. My sincere thanks to this committee for the opportunity to appear before you to speak about my desire to serve on the Education Arbitration Board.

In 1975 I graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from Eastern Connecticut State University. I was employed by the State of Connecticut Judicial Department from 1977 through 1987, first, by the Judicial Department in the State of Connecticut Restitution Service, a federal and state funded program which investigated white-collar crime and offered the court's alternative sentencing plans, with the emphasis on financial and community restitution. From 1979 to 1987, I continued to work for the Judicial Department at the Office of Adult Probation, as a Senior Adult Probation Officer. While employed by the State Judicial Department, I attended law school, graduating in 1987 from Western New England College School of Law. I am married and live in Windsor with my wife of 34 years. I am the father of two grown sons and since meeting you last, I am a proud grandfather.

Since 1989, I have been a principal in the law firm of Ferguson, Doyle & Chester, P.C., where our concentration is public and private sector labor law. Our clients include the AFT Connecticut, AFT, AFL-CIO. AFT Connecticut, as many

of you are aware, represents over 10,000 public school teachers in this state. We are also counsel to the AAUP, the American Association of University Professors, University of Connecticut Chapter. I have been a member of the Labor and Employment Relations Association (LERA) and presently serve on the Steering Committee. I have been an arbitrator under the Teachers Negotiation Act since 2000 and have been a member of numerous binding arbitration panels.

This is a challenging time for public education. The citizens of our state rightfully want to know that their tax money, allotted for public education, is invested appropriately and prudently. We are all committed to maintaining high standards and to make Connecticut schools the best in the country. I believe the binding arbitration process is a viable one that balances the interests of the taxpayers, the community, and the certified employees. I look forward, with your approval, to continuing to participate in this important process more now than ever. Not only do I bring my years of relevant experience as an advocate for Connecticut teachers, but I also bring the pragmatic experience of a taxpayer and a parent of children who benefitted from education received in public schools, including a Magnet School in Hartford.

Again, I am honored to appear before this committee today, and of being reappointed by Governor Malloy. I appreciate your attention and I welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you might have. Thank you.